

# Pulp access

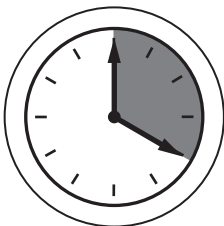
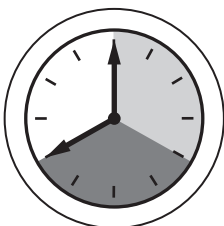

	Types of learning	Resources	UK General Dental Council learning outcome(s)*	Session learning outcome(s)
Session				Describe and execute conservative pulp access
	Didactic elements			Describe situations when it may be necessary to access the pulp space of primary and permanent teeth
	Learner-centred	Chapter 12	1.1.6	Describe the expected pulp locations with normal anatomy for each tooth type
	Reflective		1.1.5	
	Critical appraisal	Handout	1.1.5	Appreciate the age changes that occur within the pulp space
	Peer review		1.1.4	
				Devise criteria for assessing satisfactory pulp access
				Identify common faults with pulp access and derive solutions

\* - black (dentists), blue (therapists)

## Teaching notes

### KEY POINTS:

- ✓ Accessing the pulp space is primarily an exercise in hand piece orientation and control
- ✓ Encourage the slow and systematic removal of tooth tissue, with constant checking with the straight probe for perforation of one or more pulp horns
- ✓ Once the pulp space has been entered, end cutting burs should no longer be used

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work through sheet – discuss symptoms of pulpitis and how a pain history is taken – type, when, where, duration, exacerbating factors, pain relief etc.</li> <li>• Discuss elective versus traumatic endodontic access.</li> <li>• Identify the equipment necessary for adequate pulp access and a methodical approach – where is the pulp? Which burs? How do we measure and where? When to stop!</li> <li>• Demonstrate access on a <b>lower molar tooth</b> with a systematic reduction in coronal tissue, periodically stopping and checking with a probe until it drops into a pulp horn. Then use slow speed or endo-z burs to open up the roof.</li> <li>• Discuss problems that may be encountered</li> <li>• Devise a systematic and controlled approach to pulp access</li> <li>• Highlight that instrumentation down the long axis of the tooth is critical – stop and check!</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop criteria – pulp space accessed, smooth walls, fully unroofed, straight line access, not overcut, sufficient retention for temporary, no damage to walls or floor.</li> <li>• Students to access <b>14, 16, 35, 34, 33 and 46</b></li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peer review and critically appraise <i>before</i> moving onto the next tooth.</li> </ul>

### Pulp access assessment criteria

- Pulp chamber accessed and fully unroofed
- Cavity smooth, clean walls in continuity with chamber
- Allows straight line access
- Not unnecessarily extended
- No damage to floor or walls of the chamber

## Pulp access worksheet

1. When do you think you may need to deliberately cut a cavity to enter the pulp of a tooth?

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2. Cut a cavity to open 14 and un-roof the pulp of a tooth using tools of your own choice.

3. What do you think would be some of the desirable features of such a cavity?

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Criticise your cavity against these criteria.

4. What would be some of the key tools in helping you to safely open the pulp and check the quality of your preparation?

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